Interest #2

Locked-In syndrome is a rare neurological disorder in which lesions to certain vertebrae of the spine cause total paralysis of the body, minus the eyes, whilst cognitive function remains untouched.

It is a devastating disorder that is equally as difficult to diagnose, as it can be mistaken for a vegetative state with lack of consciousness.

One of the biggest setbacks with locked-in syndrome is lack of communication with patients. Despite this, advances in AI communicative devices have provided patients with a new way of being heard.

The concept is simple. An eye-tracking device is placed on the face of the patient, and with their eye movement an AI system can communicate via speakers what the patient needs or wants.

While this is the first AI device of its kind aimed at helping those with Locked-In syndrome, it is not the first communication device for patients with LIS.

The question is, is AI intelligence a better means of communication for those suffering from Locked-In Syndrome?